

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

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Supplement to The Collegian

Dr. Kouymjian Completes Album of Arm. Paleography

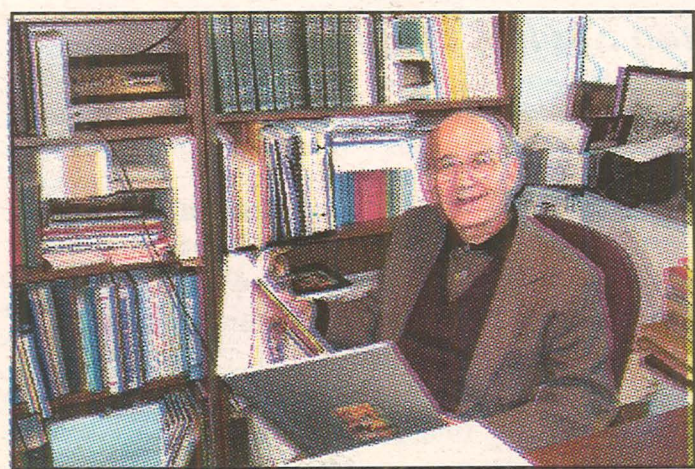


Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

An important contribution to Armenian studies, the *Album of Armenian Paleography*, was published by Aarhus University Press of Denmark in November 2002. The authors of this reference work, Professors Michael Stone, Henning Lehmann, and Dickran Kouymjian, spent twelve years on the production of the *Album*.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and the Director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, discussed, in an earlier *Hye Sharzhoom* interview, the meticulous work involved in completing the *Album*. During the last five years that the *Album* has been in press, it has undergone in-

tensive editing, bibliographies required careful checking, and Armenian-to-English translations were checked for accuracy.

As the title indicates, the *Album of Armenian Paleography* focuses on how Armenian letters have changed form throughout a millennium, referencing two hundred accurately dated manuscripts, most of which came from the Matenadaran in Erevan, the Armenian Patriarchal Library in Jerusalem, and the Library of the Mekhitarist Fathers in San Lazzaro, Venice. The manuscripts were samples from among the 31,000 Armenian manuscripts preserved in collections throughout the world. The album includes manuscript samples dating from the ninth to

SEE DR. KOUYMIJIAN PAGE 7

Atom Egoyan's Ararat Opens in Fresno

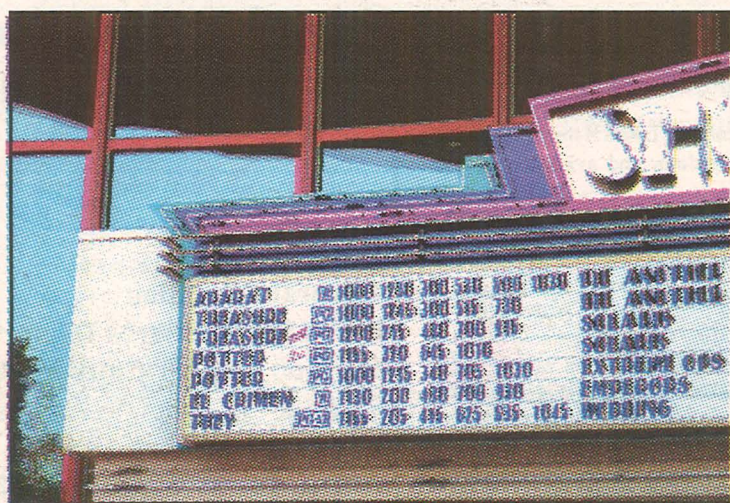


Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

"Ararat" opened at Edwards Theatre on Wed., November 27.

TAMARA KARAKASHIAN
EDITOR

For years Armenians around the world have been anticipating the production of a major motion picture on the Armenian Genocide. Now they have it in full force.

Canadian film director/producer Atom Egoyan has created a masterpiece, which opened at Edwards Theatre in Fresno, on Wednesday, November 27, 2002.

Fresno Armenians gathered at 10AM on opening morning to watch, for the first time in Fresno, the movie "Ararat." With their ticket stubs in hand, Armenians ranging in age from young children to elderly, some of whom were genocide survivors, proudly entered

the theater for the premiere.

Along with the many local Armenians, civic and community leaders such as Fresno Mayor Alan Autry, State Senator (R-14th) Chuck Poochigian, Congressman-elect (R-CA 21st) Devin Nunes and State Assemblyman-elect (R-29th) Steve Samuelian were present at this showing. Representatives from U.S. Senator's and the governors' offices were also present.

Initial plans for the distribution of "Ararat" called for openings in New York and Los Angeles on November 15, with openings in ten other U.S. markets on November 27. These plans did not include a Fresno showing, but the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State led a grass-roots campaign to

persuade Miramax to open the film in Fresno as well. E-mails and telephone calls flooded the local theater as well as Miramax headquarters.

"Ararat" represents the first major motion picture to treat the issue of the Armenian Genocide. Director Egoyan made a film that looks directly at the issue of the Turkish government's persistent denial of the Genocide and the effects of that denial on succeeding generations of Armenians.

The Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian National Committee of Fresno hosted a press conference immediately following the premiere. Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program and Hygo Ohannessian, from the ANC of Fresno, welcomed Mayor Autry and State Senator Chuck Poochigian in a discussion of the film's impact in Fresno and the United States as a whole.

Prof. Kouymjian commented on the movie stating that for Egoyan to tell this story was an extraordinary challenge. He related the "Ararat" to a film called "Shoah," made by the famous French filmmaker, Claude Lanzmann, who felt that it would be difficult to make a film on the Holocaust. He attempted to do so by portraying the day to

SEE ARARAT PAGE 8

Greek Ambassador Presents New Book

TAMARA KARAKASHIAN
EDITOR

On Wednesday, November 20, 2002, the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization were honored to have His Excellency Leonidas T. Chrysanthopoulos, Ambassador of Greece to Canada, speak as part of the ASP Fall Lecture Series.

Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos had been the Greek Ambassador to Armenia in 1993-1994, and after his re-assignment to Ottawa, he started compiling his notes to write a book about his experiences-the newly released *Caucasus Chronicles: Nation Building and Diplomacy, 1993-1994*, published by the Gomidas Institute.

The Ambassador has a lengthy family legacy in the Greek Foreign Ministry. Both his father and his grandfather were Ambassadors. Being the son of a diplomat he was

used to living in various places throughout the world. Although he has been thoroughly impressed with the cultures of the countries he has lived in, he says that he has not been entirely influenced by them.

Living in Armenia was challenging for the Ambassador. Since there was power for less than an hour a day the Ambassador believes that he had more time to think. The Ambassador feels that many people throughout the world especially here in the United States should devote more time to simply thinking.

While the Ambassador was in Armenia the war in Karabagh was raging and he did not visit Karabagh because of his position. He asked if he could go incognito, however the authorities said it was not a good idea.

One experience that saddened the Ambassador was the fact that some of the Armenian people had to resort to selling their family heirlooms to simply afford to eat. He

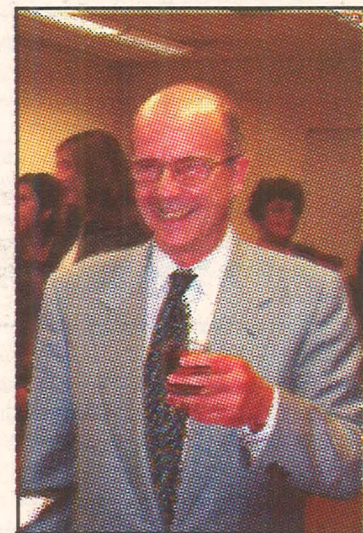


Photo: Dikran Chiekian

Amb. Chrysanthopoulos

observed that people did not bargain on prices because one felt sad for the situation. The diplomats were also affected by the harsh conditions in Armenia such as lack of power and water supply and he recounted how it took him up to two hours in the morning for simple

SEE AMBASSADOR PAGE 8



Armenian Studies Program

17th Annual Banquet

Keynote speaker

H. E. Arman Kirakossian
Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia
to the United States

Sunday, February 9, 2003

Residence Dining Hall
CSU Fresno

Keep this date open.
More details will follow.

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/ Donations

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the authors and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts either offered personally or to the Program.

Alidz Agabian, *Dzalabadig, Images from the Diaspora's Mother Community*, in Armenian, Los Angeles: Dzil-u-Dzar Publications, 2002, 32 pages, large format with CD of songs. A book for children eight years and older with stories and verse by the author and archival photos of Aleppo. Available at dziludzar@aol.com.

Anna Ballian, editor, *Armenian Relics of Cilicia from the Museum of the Catholicosate in Antelias, Lebanon*, a catalogue of an exhibition at the Banaki Museum, Athens, 30 October-10 December 2002, Athens: Olkos, 2002, 127 large format pages, brilliant color photography throughout, with catalogue of objects, essays, and bibliography. Offered by His Holiness, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

Clifford Chanin, curator, *In Memory: The Art of Afterward*, exhibition catalogue, The Sidney Mishkin Gallery, Baruch College, NY, NY, 2002, 40 pages, including the works of two Armenian artists, Léon Tutundjian and Robert Barsumian, part of the Armenian section of the Legacy Project, materials compiled by A. & D. Kouymjian. Offered by the Legacy Project, NYC.

Ambassador Leonidas T. Chrysanthopoulos, *Caucasus Chronicles: Nation-Building and Diplomacy in Armenia, 1993-1994*, Princeton & London: Gomidas Institute Books, 2002, 180 pages with map and photos. Offered by Vincent Lima of the Gomidas Institute.

Daughters of Vartan, Fresno Chapter, Fresno, CA, for the copy of *Vardanants: Yenger Yev Sharakanner (Songs and Sharakans of Vardanants)* 1500th Anniversary of Vardanants. Etchmiadzin, 2001.

William Faulkner, *Sartoris*, translated into Armenian by Diana Hambardzumian, Erevan, 2000, 342 pages. Offered by the translator and available through zangak@arminco.com.

Diana Hambardzumian, *The Milky Way*, a novella in Armenian, Erevan, 1999, 120 pages, available through the publisher zangak@arminco.com. Offered by the author.

Zoya Kachadurian of New York City, for a collection of 15 Armenological books by T. Altounian, Zabelle Boyajian, including a manuscript note from the Queen's secretary to her on the occasion of the publication of *Armenian Legends and Poem* in 1916, P. Aucher, Samuel Cox, H. Lynch, J. Strykowski and D. Boyajian.

Matthew Karanian & Robert Kurkjian, *Edge of Time. Traveling in Armenian & Karabagh*, 2nd edition, Washington, D.C.: Stone Garden Publications, 2002, 164 pages, lavishly illustrated guide-book with maps and color photography of the authors. Available through info@StoneGardenProductions.com.

Seiyu Kiriya, *21st Century: The Age of Sophia. The Wisdom of Greek Philosophy and the Wisdom of the Buddha*, Tokyo: Hirakawa Shuppan Inc., 2000, 153 pages, available through gk1361@ro.bekkoame.ne.jp.

Lark Musical Society, Glendale, CA, for the books *Komitas: Essays & Articles* (Translated by Vatsche Barsoumian) and *The Life Work of Dikran Tchouhadjian* by Nikoghos K. Tahmizian.

National Arts Foundation, Skokie, IL, for the copies of the book *Sahagian's Armenia* with paintings by Arthur Harry Sahagian.

Nishan Parklakian, **S. Peter Cowe**, editors, *Modern Armenian Drama, An Anthology*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2001, xxxii, 449 pages. Seven classical Armenian plays translated into Armenia with biographical introductions.

Vickie Smith Foston, *Victoria's Secret: A Conspiracy of Silence*, Sacramento: Victoria Lazarian Heritage Association, 2001, 187 pages with photos and bibliography. The story of an Armenian immigrant who was driven to take her own life in Fresno in 1950 as told by her granddaughter. Available at VLAHARESEARCH@aol.com.

Michael Stone, Dickran Kouymjian, Henning Lehmann, *Album of Armenian Paleography*, Aarhus University Press: Aarhus, 2002, 556 folio pages, with 220 color plates. Available in the U.S. and Canada through David Brown Book Company, P.O. Box 541, Oakville, CT 06779, fax. (860) 945-9468 or through the Armenian Studies Program.

T'orgom Vehapetian (Simon Hovivian), *Nor serunde: K'awut'ean nokhaz* (The New Generation: Scapegoat), vol. I, *The Last Historical Turning Point Armenia, 1920*, 3rd, ed., Beirut: Nanor, 1988, 264 pages.

Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, for pictures, music and archival materials. The following books were offered by Professor Antonia Arslan of the University of Padova, Italy. They are available through the publisher Guerini e Associati at via delle Erbe 2, 20121 Milano, tel./fax (011-39) 2 809506.

Antonia Arslan, editor, *Daniel Varujan. Il canto del pane*, translation of *Hatsin erge* (The Bread Song), Milan: Guerini e Associati, 3rd edition, 1994, 137 pages, with facing Armenian and Italian and an introduction.

Sonya Orfalian, editor, *Lamele dell'immortalità. Fiabe Armene*, in the collection, *Carte Armene*, Milan: Guerini e Associati, 2000, 156 pages.

Stefania Garna, *Generazioni nell'ombra di un genocidio. Il massacro del popolo armeno*, 2nd edition, Padova, 1998, 47 pages with excellent photographs and bibliography.

Marco Impagliazzo, *Una finestra sul massacro. Documenti inediti sulla strage degli armeni (1915-1916)*, Milan: Guerini e Associati, 2000, 254 pages, with name index. The Italian edition of a hitherto unpublished memoir by a French Franciscan missionary, Jacques Rhétoré entitled *Les Chrétiens aux bêtes. Souvenirs de la guerre sainte proclamé par les Turcs contre les Chrétiens, en 1915*.

Collective authorship, *Armin T. Wegner and the Armenians in Anatolia, 1915. Images and testimonies*, Milan: Guerini e Associati, 1996, 221 pages, texts in Italian and English.

Periodicals

Handes, *Literary and Artistic*, no. 3, August 2002, a literary quarterly in Armenian produced between Tehran and Los Angeles.

Hask, *The Monthly Review of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia*, vol. 71/1-8 (2002).

Horizon, no. 28, 2002/3, published by the Armenian Associations of Sweden in Uppsala, Garo Hakopian, editor: garo.hakopian@telia.com.

FA FranceArménie, Armenian monthly from Lyon, France, lavishly illustrated, large format. france-armenie@wanadoo.fr.

St. Nersess Theological Review, vol. 7 (2002), annual of the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804.

HYE SHARZHOOM

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California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2003 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150A	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Integration IC, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 6-Humanities and Lit., for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 148 Masterpieces Arm Lit	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 108B Arm History II	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T Armenian Dance	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	T Bozgian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Dance will meet January 31 and February 1, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 120T Armenian Film	3	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Film will meet Feb. 28, March 1; 7, 8; and 14, 15, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 123 Armenian Architecture	3	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Architecture will meet Feb. 7, 8; 14, 15; and 21, 22, 2003</i>				

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

Dickran Kouymjian, *Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator*

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, *Lecturer, ASO Advisor, Hye Sharzhoom Advisor*

Barbara Merguerian, *Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies*

Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assistant*

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Contact the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669 to make any address corrections or updates.

Dr. Merguerian on The Armenian Question in US Foreign Policy

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

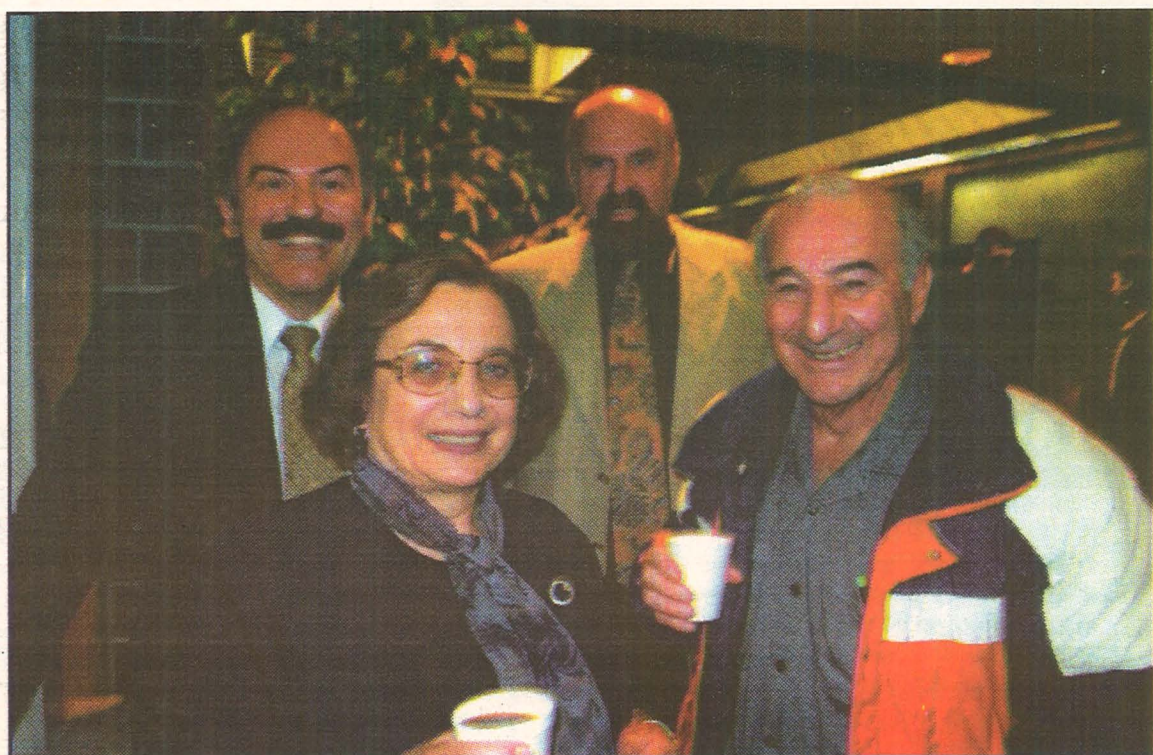
On Tuesday, November 12th, Dr. Barbara Merguerian delivered her second in a series of three lectures on "The Armenian Question in United States Foreign Policy" for the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2002 Lecture Series. Dr. Merguerian, the third Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies, spoke on "The Witness of the American Consulates" in Armenia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This topic, along with her preceding and forthcoming lecture topics, are discussed in her class, "Armenian Studies 120T: The United States and the Armenians, 1800 to Present."

In Dr. Merguerian's first lecture on October 22nd, she spoke of the effect of the American missionaries on the Armenian people during the 19th century. She began by explaining that her interest in the American missionaries is rooted in her discovery that her grandmother was living in Kharpert, where a large number of American missionaries resided in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Wondering if her grandmother possibly had contact with these missionaries, Dr. Merguerian began to further research a subject on which there has been both limited discussion and mixed feelings.

From the onset of the talk, Dr. Merguerian pointed out that the subject of the American missionaries in Armenia "has been largely neglected by writers and scholars,

both Armenian and American," due to the difficulty of classifying the American missionaries as either beneficial or troublesome to the Armenian people. Many have argued that the missionaries were divisive for the Armenians, that they brought a potentially destructive western culture, and that they were simply witnesses to genocide, with any of their efforts to stop the genocide being unsuccessful. Conversely, others have pointed to the benefits that were derived from the missionaries, such as a contemporary Armenian translation of the Bible, the founding of colleges, and a more equitable view of women. Throughout the lecture, Dr. Merguerian discussed both of these viewpoints.

Dr. Merguerian also discussed the missionaries in detail, giving her audience a picture of the "common" missionary. Most missionaries that went to Armenia were idealistic college graduates from the eastern part of the United States, most of whom attended Congregational churches. These missionaries began to enter Armenia in the mid-1840's, finding success in converting some Armenians in rural villages to Protestant Christianity; soon thereafter, Protestant Christianity found its way into Cilicia. In the next few decades the number of converts increased, and Robert College, the first missionary college, was established in Istanbul in 1860. By 1870, there were 83 Protestant churches, approximately 9,000 students in Armenian schools, and other missionary colleges being built. However, Dr. Merguerian



L to R: Barlow Der Mugrdachian, Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Dr. Robert Hewsen, Dr. Ara Hairabedian.

estimates that in 1914, there were no more than 12-15,000 Armenian Protestants in the Ottoman Turkish Empire.

In her second presentation, Dr. Merguerian opened with remarks stressing the political power of the missionaries within the United States at the turn of the 20th century, and pointing out that missionary groups were some of the first lobbyists to Washington, DC. As decades passed, the missionaries "converted" more and more Armenians and also watched as the Armenian liberation movement grew in intensity.

Because the American missionaries who resided within the interior of Ottoman Turkey were at the mercy of Turkish villagers and the Turkish police, the missionaries made a concerted effort on Washington, DC to place consulates within the interior of Ottoman Turkey. Interestingly enough, America was given that power in 1830 when the Ottoman Empire and America signed a treaty, allowing for consulates to be placed anywhere their presence would be beneficial to the citizens of the country that the consulate represented.

Beginning in 1886, the first consulate within the interior of Turkey was founded in Sivas, with consulates being placed in Erzeroum and Kharpert, in 1896 and 1901, respectively. The first

consulate in Sivas was H. A. Jewitt, who was the son of a missionary. Jewitt resided as consulate in Sivas between 1886 and 1890, citing that he was powerless to solve the problems at hand. Dr. Merguerian explained that, though in theory the consulates had much power, in practice they could only do little to reconcile the Armenians and the Ottoman Turks.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, tensions rose between the Armenians and the Turks, leading to Armenian persecution at the hands of the Ottoman government, exemplified in the 1894-1896 massacres. Though the consulates in Sivas, Erzeroum, and Kharpert were powerless to stop the attacks, their presence was important as witnesses of the atrocities that took place. However, the consulates' reports to the American government fell on deaf ears, as the government, guided by a policy of isolationism, chose not to intervene. Former President Grover Cleveland's administration failed to assist the Armenians, and former President Theodore Roosevelt, who was at one time critical about America's lack of intervention, also did nothing to help the Armenians.

Yet between 1886 and 1917 (when Kharpert, the last of the three consulates was closed down due to America's involvement in WW I), the American consulates were very

active, trying to help the Armenian people by protecting the missionaries that taught, clothed, and fed many Armenians.

Consulates tried to unsuccessfully implement new farming techniques among the Armenians. Furthermore, the consuls often traveled to war-torn cities and villages aiding needy Armenians, such as Thomas Norton's travels to Mush and Bitlis during the massacres. They encouraged visits by the Red Cross, such as the 1896 visit made by Clara Barton to distribute aid to the American missionaries. But most important was their witness to the "dangerous tensions" brooding in Ottoman Turkey, which they consistently reported to the American government.

This is where Dr. Merguerian ended her lecture-though the American consulates tried to better the lives of the Armenians both directly and indirectly, they were powerless to stop the violence carried out against Ottoman subjects. Still, their stories live on as they would later serve as a record of the crimes committed by Ottoman Turkey.

Dr. Merguerian's final lecture, co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series and the Armenian Studies Program, will be held at 7:00 pm on December 6th, in the Wahlberg Recital Hall in the Music Building at CSU Fresno.

Yergu Puta-Mahd Verr (Two Thumbs Up!)

WITH CARINA KARAKASHIAN & NYRIE KARKAZIAN



L to R: Marsha Sheakalee, Nyrie Karkazian, Gretta Ghazel, Carina Karakashian, Maria Sheakalee.

Lebanese cuisine is one that is widely accepted in the Armenian community. In fact, much of Armenian cooking is heavily influenced by Lebanese or Middle Eastern cuisine. Lebanese cuisine is also largely accepted among those locally, in the Fresno area.

There are numerous Lebanese/Middle Eastern restaurants in the Fresno area, however, we chose to review one that is a little different.

"By the Sea," located on the southwest corner of Herndon and Palm, serves a variety of traditional Middle Eastern plates along with a very modern taste of Caribbean seafood. Owner, Gretta Ghazel opened this restaurant in 1995, taking over the family business. Gretta

was born in Lebanon, moved to Africa, then to Fresno and has been in the area for 25 years.

Ghazel's eclectic past is reflected in the atmosphere she has created in the restaurant. Amongst the paintings, candles, music and food it seems like you are in paradise. However, Ghazel has perfected not only the atmosphere, but also her menu. The effort put into making each plate is mirrored through its taste and appearance. If you are interested in going out, relaxing, having fun and still getting the taste of a home-cooked meal, "By the Sea" is the place to go. Our recommendation is the Phoenician chicken.

Armenia: Key Facts

Official name:

Haikakan Hanrapetoutioun
(The Republic of Armenia)

Head of State:

President Robert Kocharian
(since 1998)

Head of government:

Prime Minister Andranik Margarian (HHK)
(from May 2000)

Ruling party: Miasnutian (Unity) bloc-the Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) and the People's Party of Armenia (HZhK), supported

by the Communist Party of Armenia

Area: 11,490 square miles

Population: 3.2 million
(2002)

Capital: Yerevan

Official language: Armenian

Currency: Dram (D)
= Luma 100

Exchange rate: D582.83 per
US \$ (Jun 2002)

GDP per capita: US \$ 533
(2000)

GDP real growth: 6.0%

(2000); 9.6% (2001); 7.4%
(year-on-year, first qtr 2002)

Labor force: 1.45 million
(2000)

Unemployment: 10.9%
(2000); 9.8% (Dec 2001);
9.5% (May 2002)

Inflation: -0.8% (2000);
3.4% (2001)

Balance of trade: -US \$ 467
million (2000); -US \$ 492
million (2001)

Foreign debt: US \$ 959.0
million (2000)

Armenian Students Organization Has A Great Start



ASO members at the first meeting of 2002-2003.

ALEX BUNCH
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) began the 2002-03 school year by holding its first meeting in September, with more than 25 members present. A new executive was also elected.

The next meeting and get-together was at Dominion Pizza, located at the northwest corner of Cedar and Shepherd. There were a lot of games and things to do, but for me one of the major things was just getting to know people, which I found very easy. There was plenty of pizza and soda for everybody. The pizza was hot, and the conversations, both in English and Armenian, were non-stop. People were generally asking questions about what the ASO is all about, and since I am a freshman, I only knew

that there was an ASO, not about what they do. The ASO and the Armenian Studies Program are one of the major reasons why I came to Fresno. But there was also another surprise at the meeting, the ASO decided to buy a cake and surprise everybody who either just had a birthday, or was having one in the near future. (I was one of them.) There were plenty of pictures taken and plenty of smiling faces.

The ASO's next event was a carwash fundraiser, which was held on Saturday, October 10, at the Flying A Gas Station located on Ashlan and Blackstone in Fresno. We washed over 40 cars and worked from 10 AM until 2 PM. The gas station itself is owned by the Torigian's, who were nice enough to allow us to use their facilities. ASP President Sevag Tateosian provided us with Armenian music while we were working. Towards

the end of the carwash we were eating pizza, lehmajoon (Armenian pizza), and drinking plenty of soda. Again, everybody was having a great time. As far as the cars go, we had many different types to clean. Some required two people, others required six people, such as the big Chevy Luxury Van owned by Ani. I remember the van was so big that we helped Gevorg climb on top of it to clean the roof, which was a bit difficult.

Our most recent meeting was again held at a pizza parlor, but this time at John's Incredible Pizza, which was also a ton of fun. Some of the games included ice hockey, cards, and board games.

The ASO also decided to hold a Halloween party at Nyrie Karkazian's house. People came with all sorts of costumes and again there was plenty to do and it was a lot of fun.

Our most recent ASO event was the "Donate two canned foods and bowl for free night," held at Fresno State's bowling alley and game area. The idea was just as the title implies. Donate two canned food items and have fun with free bowling. In the end, we had a total of two full boxes worth of cans, which went straight to Poverello House. Some people were even generous enough to donate more than two canned items.

So, yes, we had fun bowling. ASO Adviser, Barlow Der Mugrdchian, a Professor in the Armenian Studies Program, basically wiped out each and every one

of us. He said he had not bowled in a long time, but yet he was still able to beat us. It was nice to again see so many people bowling with so many smiling faces and so much laughter taking place.

"The ASO and the Armenian Studies Program are one of the major reasons why I came to Fresno."

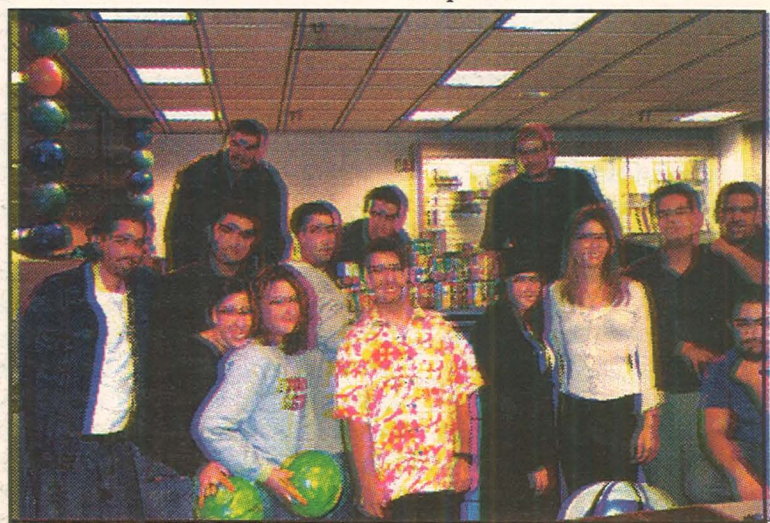
Alex Bunch

I would also like to mention that one part of the ASO's activities also includes co-sponsoring various lectures with the Armenian Studies Program. The ASO takes pride in helping out in any way they can, which includes serving refreshments after the lectures. This semester we have heard from many people including Dr. Barbara Merguerian, who gave three lec-

tures during the semester.

So far all of our various events this year have been a real success. Let me just say that as an Armenian, it means a lot to me to see us together bonding. History has shown that Armenians have suffered a great deal, including the Armenian Genocide of 1915. It is incredibly important for we Armenians to stick together and support one another. Spending time together like this and learning about each other is very important. The truth is, we are like a family, and we must stick together. What ever our next event is, I hope to continue seeing a big turnout like I have seen so far. Remember also that being part of the ASO is a commitment and should be taken seriously. Just think of all the friends you make, and the good memories you share with each other.

Remember, we are Armenian and proud!



ASO members enjoying bowling at the ASO sponsored canned food drive at Fresno State.

Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

A Thank You from the President of the Armenian Students Organization



Sevag Tateosian - President

SEVAG TATEOSIAN
ASO PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the students of the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) for electing me President this year. I am thankful that they had enough trust and faith to vote me into the Presidency. Last year as Vice President under Michael Harutinian, I learned a lot about the Armenian students of Fresno State. For example I learned their likes and dislikes and what they like to do together.

A President is nothing without a strong and hardworking executive. ASO is blessed in having an executive full of angels this year. So far

this semester they have shown that they are hard working and like to get everyone together and involved in the ASO. The most important thing about the executive is that they are willing to speak up and give their opinions about planning events, social activities, and meetings. They are always thinking of ideas that will attract members to events.

Their names are as follows:

Tatevik Ekejian is the Vice President and is also co-host on the "Hye Oozh" radio show with Armen Postoyan and myself. She keeps me down to earth. For example if I think of an idea that I like, but will not work for everyone else, she is honest and will tell me as well as the other members of the executive that it won't work, and she will provide several other ideas that will appeal more to the stu-

dents. She is very intelligent and committed. She is also a very strong vice president. One day she will make a great president.

Erica Ananian, who I have known the longest on the executive, is the Secretary. Her friendly, cheerful personality and her ability to make new friends is important, especially to attract and get new members involved, including non-Armenians. Individuals are comfortable around her and her ability to listen to people makes it easy for members to go to her when they need advice on issues.

Carina Karakashian, who was a member of the "A n o u s h" Barakhoump, is our Treasurer. It is a privilege to have her on the executive. Her experience in ACYO speaks for itself. Her ability to help us plan for events is very important. She is a very hard worker that is dedicated to bringing the group together to not only have fun, but to have them make friends

for life. Also, her always-happy personality and smile are a plus!

Nyrie Karkazian, last, but definitely not least, is responsible for Public Relations. Nyrie was also a member of the "A n o u s h" Barakhoump. She is so committed to ASO that she opened up her house for us to have a Halloween social gathering. Thanks Nyrie! But that is not all I have to say about her. Her ability to make excellent, eye-appealing flyers to publicize our events has helped make our events a success. She plays a crucial role in getting our events publicized. The excellent turnout at ASO events demonstrates that people hear about and know about the activities. She is a very nice person and people in the ASO respect her.

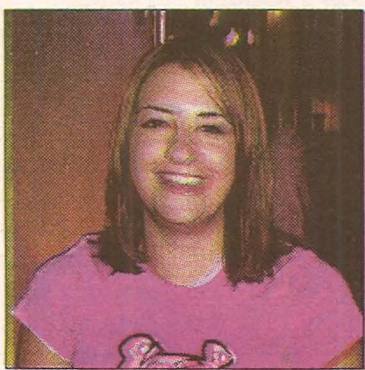
Thanks to the members and the executive of the ASO all of our events this year have been a success. The club's membership is through the roof. This was obvious when we had our canned food drive and the

group came up with several big boxes of canned goods that we donated to the Poverello House of

Fresno. Our first meeting of the year at Dominion Pizza had so many people attend that the whole pizza shop was full of members. Thanks to Rahmi and Vera, whose family owns Dominion Pizza, for opening their pizza shop to us and not complaining when our members virtually took over the place.

To me there are several things that make the ASO a special organization on campus, but the one thing that I love about this organization is the fact that the members all have a diverse background. They are all Armenians but they come from different parts of the world. There are members who are born here in the United States, there are members from Armenia, Russia, Lebanon, Iran, Australia, Canada and many other parts of the world and they each add something different to our Armenian club.

I would like to thank the members and tell them to keep making ASO a success!



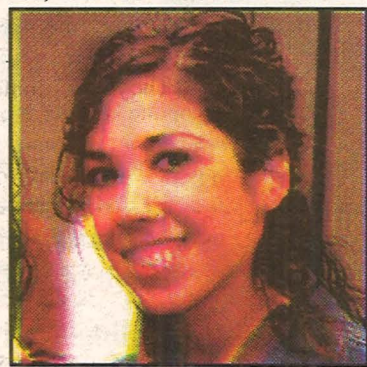
Erica Ananian - Secretary



Nyrie Karkazian - Public Relations



Tatevik Ekejian - Vice President



Carina Karakashian - Treasurer

Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Craig School of Business Faculty Visit Armenia on NIS Project



L. to R. Diane Decker, Alex Chilingaryan, Karine Asryan, Elizabeth Shields, and Tom Burns at Holy Etchmiadzin.

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

Three faculty members from the Craig School of Business at Fresno State: Tom Burns, Diane Decker, and Elizabeth Shields, visited the Faculty of Economics of Yerevan State University in October 2002. Their visit was part of the three-year Newly Independent States (NIS) College and University Partnership Program grant received by Fresno State in 1999. The grant partners California State University with Yerevan State University. The Program is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in Washington, DC and administered through the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Professor Shields had visited Armenia previously, but it was a first-time visit for Professors Burns and Decker. Their visit involved working with faculty in similar fields of business and economics. In Spring 2003, a group of faculty from Armenia will make a visit to Fresno State, as part of the continuing activities of the project.

The three faculty were asked their views on their visit, and their remarks appear below, in their own words.



Elizabeth Shields
Department of Finance & Business Law

My visit to Yerevan State University in October 2002 was much more heartening than a year earlier. I found a greater air of optimism in Yerevan compared to my visit in 2001. This was bolstered by the hustle and bustle in the streets as workers hurried to finish laying the new sidewalks financed by the Lincy Foundation before winter set in. The sidewalks of almost every major street in the downtown area were being torn up and new cobblestones laid. Each street has a different shape of cobblestone but all the stones interlock tightly to form a very aesthetic pattern. A new boulevard is being built between the Opera House and Republic Square causing temporary disruptions to traffic in that area. Electricity cables and gutters were being relaid which means that the traffic lights at the intersections

around Mashtots Avenue and Abovian Avenue were not working, adding even more thrills to crossing the street whether on foot or in a vehicle. Most museums, art galleries, the Opera House and Philharmonic Hall were closed for renovations, also financed by the Lincy Foundation. But the people were as welcoming, friendly and hospitable as ever.

In the Department of Economics at Yerevan State University the administration and faculty have started the formal procedures to adopt a new curriculum in Management Information Systems, a joint development of the faculty in Yerevan and at California State University, Fresno. Together with the young enthusiastic faculty and the new up-to-date computers purchased with the NIS grant this new track in the Master's degree program will attract the brightest and the best. It will also provide a source of well-trained graduates for the burgeoning software development industry in Armenia. Dr. Sasan Rahmatian (CSU Fresno) is to be commended for his untiring efforts to introduce this new curriculum. We hope to replicate this success in the areas of Finance, Management and Marketing in the coming year.

**Attention Fresno State alumni
who have been students
of the Armenian Studies Program.**

Send us information about what you are doing now.

Name, date of graduation, one line of information.

Send by email to franz@csufresno.edu

Tom Burns
Department of Management

After 24 hours of travel and arriving (10:00 at night) at a very difficult airport, Zvartnots, (badly in need of updating), the next day was an interesting surprise. I was very interested in the amount of energy that Yerevan has as a city. There is such a dichotomy as there is a lot of developed infrastructure but at the same time a lot of it has not been maintained. You can see some very well developed businesses right next to basically empty structures.

After looking at the statistics on per capita income, size of the economy, I was expecting more abject poverty and associated issues. We have a tendency to oversimplify both our expectations and observations as human beings. In Armenia's case one might immediately expect a similar lack of sanitation, lack of human development (education, skills, knowledge or broad experience), lack of responsibility that other developing countries have. Although there is obvious need for more public services in fixing and cleaning facilities, reclaiming abandoned facilities, etc., there was much more pride in the people about personal appearance. I saw no sewage in the streets, I felt safe in all the places that I visited. I would suggest it is a country that has experienced a better standard of living, but unfortunately their change of economic systems has not allowed the prosperity that should be associated with a more developed population from a skill, education and talent basis.

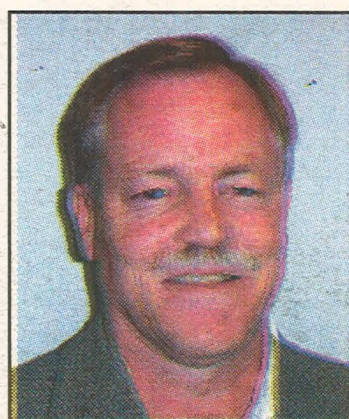
It takes a little effort to get the Armenians to open up (as you would find in any major city) but once you have accomplished that you would find them very open and generous. They have tremendous pride in Armenia but at the same time they are blunt about its economic dilemma. As I heard them explain it, they are actually full of pride of their past economic success, not necessarily of communism. Simultaneously they see they need change more to achieve renewed success than heavy political ideology change. The family orientation is strong, and the people that I

Diane Decker
Department of Management

I was impressed with the country. I see that they are making strides to improve the infrastructure (some roads, sidewalks, the greenbelt) which will make the city even more attractive. As I mentioned to several of the individuals in Armenia when asked about my impressions of the country, my response was that it was romantic. I loved the outdoor cafes.

The young people appear to be up on the latest fashion trends and are very progressive in their thinking. The students and the professors seemed very open to accept new learning methodologies. The people that I met were very friendly and willing to accommodate any request I had.

The educational system has a very solid foundation in my opinion. There are new areas that could



Tom Burns

met were ambitious and showed a lot of pride in their education, appearance and other personal issues. I can also say they are rather "robust" in their social engagements and put a great importance into these functions (there is a tradition and order, e.g. the honor given with the toasts, but these are also informal and somewhat chaotic).

We found a very bright group of students (at least at Yerevan State) who were as good as we find at Fresno State. They are not only knowledgeable and bilingual (or multi-lingual) but could grasp many of the concepts that we would lecture on even though they had not heard them before. It appears that their early education is very sound to me. I would challenge some of their curriculum as it, in my opinion, fits the old economic system with emphasis in economic theory that trains people for potential bureaucratic positions in the government. I feel they could blend this with many more classes in general business areas. This would lead to more business start ups and give new businesses better potential candidates with specialized skills that businesses seek such as planning, accounting, information systems, etc. We were able to personally meet many of the students and found them similar to our students, fun loving, inquisitive, many committed to the University, some not committed.

I attempted to bring some new curricular and teaching methods to Yerevan. I took three basic course areas to Armenia, specifically Entrepreneur Studies, Strategy Planning, and International Management. Additionally I wanted to demonstrate case studies that em-

be instituted to add an applied element to their solid knowledge foundation. Some additional courses could be human resource management, business strategy, business plan writing. I would also like to see more interaction between businesses and the University. I believe both could benefit from this type of relationship.

The students were very bright and seemed to have a good grasp on the course material. They were eager to ask questions and participate in new teaching methods. I enjoyed talking with students, both in the classroom and also on a one-to-one basis.

I taught two classes to undergraduates-one on human resource management in America and one was an experiential learning exercise to reinforce the benefits of teamwork and decision making. I also met with the Student Council to discuss how our organizations

phasize practical application of material, and we also introduced a class that will be conducted over the Internet as a distance-learning course this next year.

The Professors are all very capable people and many times have a lot of public experience (government). But their was far less business experience than our faculty. Also, I would classify them into two groups. The old or original professors are associated with the old economics training while I found the younger professors all looking at new areas and curriculum. They will need time and help in developing their expertise in these new topics. I also feel that some of the older professors can also be coaxed to these new topic areas. Many of their topics are math model and theory based, where as we suggested that more behavioral factors need to be covered and to add emphases on applied material.

I feel the project is very worthwhile, the core and talent for development is there in the form of quality inputs (students and professors with some change). I also feel the course material that I offer is very relevant to the country's return to economic success. The shift to capitalism will require a change in curriculum that emphasizes practical business development. More importantly, the Armenians work at making a connection with you that makes you want to continue. They are engaging people with whom you want to create a good long-term relationship.

As a suggestion to those who get involved in this type of activity, it should be considered a two-way relationship. You will learn from them, they have some areas where they have some things we need to learn from (family orientation, living for the moments-quality of life concern). They can use some assistance but it should be thought of as a sharing relationship not one of, I have it all and you need to change completely to my ways. They need assistance in the economic part of their society but many other parts of their culture are very strong and positive.



Diane Decker

are set up at CSUF and what type of programs our students are involved in as student groups.

I would return to Armenia again. Absolutely!

Yerevan is a lovely city. There are so many historical sites to visit-the city is rich in history. I enjoyed the people, the food and all of the activities.

Society for Armenian Studies Holds Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

STAFF REPORT

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) held its annual membership meeting on November 23, 2002 in Washington DC. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 36th Annual Conference of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA). Founded in 1974, SAS is an international organization which represents more than 200 scholars and teachers involved in the field of Armenian studies. The Secretariat of the Society is headquartered at the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian welcomed members to the annual meeting. Various reports were given on different aspects of the Society's activities: the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, the *Newsletter*, and information on various other items.

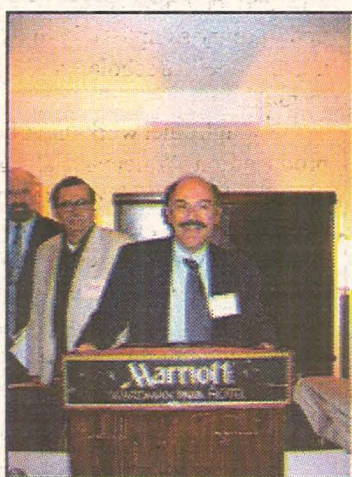
Der Mugrdechian announced the election of George Bournoutian of Iona College and Simon Payaslian of Clark University to the Executive Council of SAS, joining continuing members, Houri Berberian (CSU Long Beach),

Levon Chorbajian (Univ. of Massachusetts, Lowell), Barlow Der Mugrdechian (CSU Fresno), Christina Maranci (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Garabet Moumdjian (CSU Northridge). Outgoing members of the Executive Council are Richard Hovannisian (UCLA) and Robert Hewsen (Rowan University of New Jersey, Emeritus).

In addition to the business activities and various panels, there was time for SAS members to meet with the local Armenian community.

Vartkes and Rita Balian of Crystal Grove, Virginia, invited SAS members for a reception in their home, following the SAS annual meeting on Saturday. The guests were warmly received and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the hosts, who are active in the Armenian community.

On Sunday evening, November 24th, H. E. Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, welcomed SAS members and community members to a reception held at the Embassy of the Republic of



L to R: Robert Hewsen, Levon Chorbajian, and SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Armenia. For many of the guests, it was a first-time visit to the Embassy and Ambassador Kirakossian personally escorted members for a tour of the Embassy building. SAS members enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador, his staff, and community members.

In addition to the business meeting of the Society, a number of panels and papers with Armenian themes were presented during the

three day MESA meeting. On Sunday, November 24, there was a panel "Confronting Past and Future: the Armenian Case," sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies. Richard G. Hovannisian, of UCLA chaired the panel, which included the following papers: Richard G. Hovannisian, UCLA, "Armenian Memories of Life and Conflict in the Ottoman Empire;" Rubina Peromian, UCLA, "The Challenges of the New Century to Capture the Genocide in Art and to Encompass the Echoes of the Surviving People's Collective Psyche;" Joyce Apsel, New York University, "Human Rights and the Internet: Pedagogical Challenges;" Henry Theriault, Worcester State College, "Denial, Absolute Positivism, and a Response from Ibn Khaldun;" Dikran M. Kaligian, Boston College, "The Role of the American Media in the Armenia Case."

Immediately following there was a panel on "Sacred and Secular in Dialogue Under the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia (13th-14th centuries)" chaired by Robert H. Hewsen, Rowan University (Emeritus) and with papers by: Abraham

Terian, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, "Church-State Relations at the Dawn of Kingship in Cilician Armenia;" S. Peter Cowe, UCLA, "Ecclesiology as Theory and Institution in the Doctrinal Debate with the Latins (1316-1340);" Christina Maranci, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "Word and Image in the Armenian Alexander Romance."

The film "Hokees" by Garine Torossian of Canada was a featured film in the MESA Film Fest.

Among other papers presented at the conference were those by: Hovann H. Simonian, University of Southern California, "The Hemshin of Northeast Turkey: Muslim Armenians or Armenian-Speaking Turks?;" Richard H. Dekmejian, University of Southern California, "Al-Qa'ida: Doctrinal and Historical Roots;" and Anny Bakalian, City University of New York, "Ethnic Mobilization: Middle Eastern Organizational Response to the Backlash."

All meetings and panels were held in the conference hotel, the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

NAASR Organizes Major Conference on Armenian Studies at Harvard

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, participated in a major conference on "Rethinking Armenian Studies: Past, Present, and Future," co-sponsored by NAASR and the Harvard Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, held on October 5-6 at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and at the Center of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, MA.

Professor Kouymjian gave papers in two panels, one on "The Role of University Chairs," and the other on "The Future of Armenian Studies." Der Mugrdechian gave a paper on "The Society for Armenian Studies-A 28-year View" as part of a panel on "The Role of Organizations, Institutions, and Research Centers."

Dr. Kouymjian's first paper covered a historical overview of the discipline of Armenian studies, from its inception in the Diaspora, to the current status. Prof. Kouymjian holds the Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno and thus spoke from his experience gained as a chair-holder. His paper stressed some of the challenges facing Armenian studies and also discussed how these challenges could be faced.

Der Mugrdechian's paper provided an analysis of the activities of the Society for Armenian Studies, its achievements, and areas where work remains to be done. The Society for Armenian Studies has been at the center of the Armenian studies movement, since most of its members are integrally involved with the development of

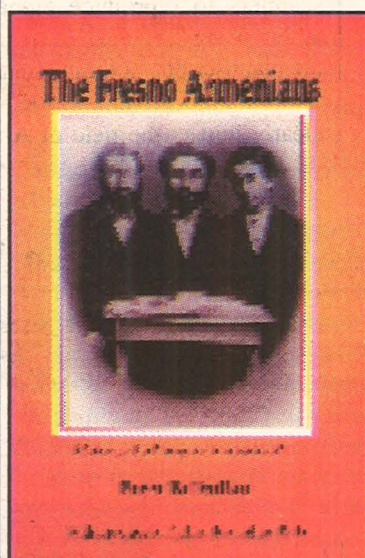
Armenian studies programs throughout the world. The SAS publications, the *Journal for the Society for Armenian Studies* and the *Newsletter* provide for communication between scholars on a variety of topics.

In addition, the Society supports young scholars by providing financial support through grants for excellence in writing.

Prof. Kouymjian's second paper, was part of the panel on "The Future of Armenian Studies." He began by reading a portion of a paper he wrote 30 years ago on the future of Armenian Studies. Many of the measures he called for then have since been accomplished, but some of the important suggestions made at that time remain topics of discussion, and, indeed, formed the basis of the weekend's conference.

On Saturday evening a banquet was held for the conference participants, guests, and members of the public at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge. Following remarks by NAASR Board Chairman Nancy Kolligian and Prof. James Russell of Harvard, His Excellency Dr. Arman Kirakossian, Armenian Ambassador to the United States, spoke on "Armenian Studies and Its Future." Ambassador Kirakossian, who is himself a historian, urged increased cooperation and collaboration between scholars and the formation of an international association of Armenian Studies. He stated, "joint research projects and publications, collaboration on translations, organization of general and specialized conferences and seminars in Armenia and abroad, exchange of information and publications, will help dissipate the unhealthy climate of mutual accusations and recriminations."

Berge Bulbulian's *The Fresno Armenians* has been reprinted and is now available for purchase. The new edition has a forward by Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.



The second edition has been updated with added information.

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New 2003 Calendar from Project SAVE

STAFF REPORT

Project SAVE-Armenian Photograph Archives has released its 2003 photograph calendar titled "Armenian Women: As Never Before Seen". Each month of Project SAVE's 16th annual calendar features archive photographs that reflect many aspects of women's lives from the 1800s to the present, from Sebastia to San Francisco.

This year's calendar photo selections were chosen by reviewing the hundreds of photo donor files for images relating specifically to women. Accompanying each photo is a detail-filled caption that enhances the understanding of the women and their surroundings. Listed each month are Project SAVE calendar sponsors, many of whom

honor women with words of remembrance.

Women from different places and times are highlighted in this collectible calendar. The calendars make wonderful holiday gifts for

know more about Armenian people and their heritage. Send a list of gift names and addresses, and Project SAVE Archives will be glad to mail a calendar with your gift message to each name provided.

Complete sets of previously published calendars are also available. If interested, please ask for a listing of the complete set. To order your calendar, call Project SAVE Archives at (617) 923-4542 or e-mail archives@projectsave.org. Payment by check to Project SAVE Archives at PO Box 236, Watertown, MA 02471-0236.

Since 1975, Project SAVE Archives has collected, documented, preserved, and made available for public use more than 25,000 vintage and modern photographs from Historic Armenia and throughout the world-wide Diaspora.



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DR. KOUYMIJIAN FROM PAGE 1

the nineteenth centuries and also includes a small number of fifth to seventh century lapidary inscriptions and some nineteenth and twentieth century samples of handwriting of Armenian scholars and intellectuals.

Though other works have been produced on Armenian paleography, the *Album of Armenian Paleography* is the most comprehensive work to date. In fact, Professor Kouymjian presents all earlier major works and most earlier minor books and articles on Armenian paleography in his detailed history of Armenian paleography for the *Album*. Furthermore, great attention is given to detail, as professor Michael Stone comments on the change of each Armenian letter over time. Due to the in-depth nature of the *Album*, it will serve as an indispensable reference work for future scholars to research and comment on individual areas of Armenian paleography.

Unlike earlier works, the *Album of Armenian Paleography* has more than two hundred color plates of actual manuscripts, made available by computer technology and scanners. More impressive technologically, however, are the alphabet tables that accompany each manuscript picture. In earlier works, these were artist reproductions made by hand to imitate the letters of the manuscript; however, for the first time, the authors used scanners to reproduce alphabet tables, using the actual letters from the manuscripts, not imitations.

This reference work will clearly impact the field of Armenian studies due to the massive research that it encompasses. As a

Album of Armenian Paleography

Michael E. Stone
Dickran Kouymjian
Henning Lehmann

result, future scholars will be able to make more definitive statements regarding Armenian paleography. Also, this work gives historians a clearer understanding of the chro-

nology of Armenian manuscripts and will, by comparing characters, help scholars to date currently undated Armenian manuscripts.

The album was produced in great detail and quality, which is clearly seen in its 556 pages, with more than two hundred color plates. This work will be of interest for all paleographers, codicologists, and students of Armenian culture.

The research and printing of the *Album* was supported by The Carlsberg Foundation of Copenhagen, with smaller grants from The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation of Fresno, California, The Research Foundation of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Technology Research Grant, California State University, Fresno.

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"Album of Armenian Paleography"

The *Album of Armenian Paleography*, compiled and edited by Michael E. Stone, Dickran Kouymjian, and Henning Lehmann, provides a comprehensive selection of some 200 definitively dated, handwritten texts, sampled from among the 31,000 manuscripts preserved in the major public collections of Europe, the Middle East, the former USSR and North America. These were chosen to reflect the range of Armenian manuscript hands from the earliest dated codices of the ninth century to the cursive script of the nineteenth century.

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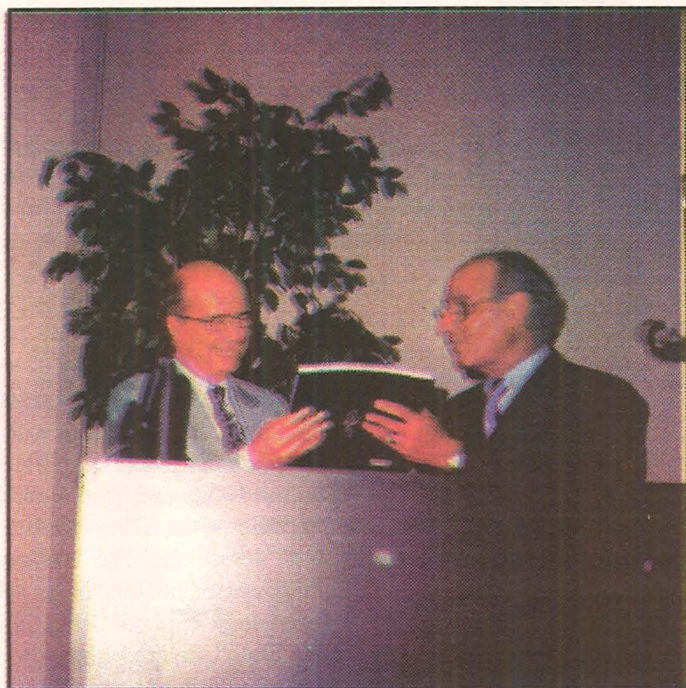
"Hye Oozh"

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Prof. Dickran Kouymjian presenting Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos a copy of the exhibition catalogue "Armenian Relics of Cilicia" currently on display in Athens' Benaki Museum. The catalogue was sent especially by His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia, to the Ambassador.

AMBASSADOR FROM PAGE 1

preparations.

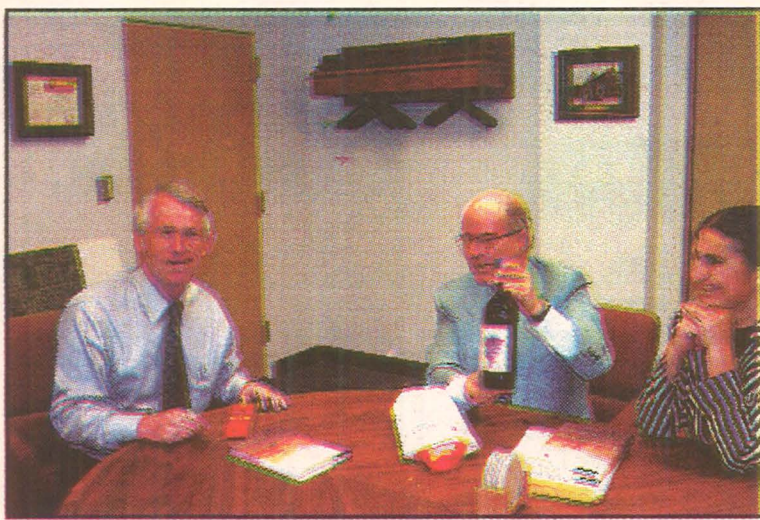
The Ambassador believes that the influence of the Armenian Church has always been strong in Armenia. Although some persecution occurred during Stalin's rule, the Russian and Greek Orthodox churches felt the same persecution.

Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos made the comment that once Armenia became independent, the Church did not mingle with politics. He encour-

aged this action stating that the role of the church has nothing to do with politics.

The Ambassador read a few excerpts from his book, sharing his experiences in Armenia, some dangerous and some humorous, with the standing room only crowd of students and members of the Fresno community.

A lively question and answer period followed the lecture and the Ambassador autographed copies of his book.



L to R: CSUF President John Welty presenting Fresno State's prize winning "President's Reserve Primitivo" wine to Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos and his wife Silese.

"ARARAT" FROM PAGE 1

day life of the mechanics of operating the camps in a nine-hour film. Prof. Kouymjian had many interesting comments concerning "Ararat" and its complex structure.

Mayor Autry commented on the political influences concerning the acknowledgment of the Genocide. Mayor Autry commented that the film was, "Moving, disturbing and inspiring from moment to moment."

"There are some movies which just have to be made," he said, 'Grapes of Wrath,' 'Roots,' 'Schindler's List,' and 'Ararat' is one of them. I have been in many movies and I know a good one when I see it. As a mayor I am proud that we have this film." The Mayor went on record saying that the right time to do the right thing is right now. I don't think we are demonizing Turkey by asking its government to acknowledge the Genocide, which is universally recognized.

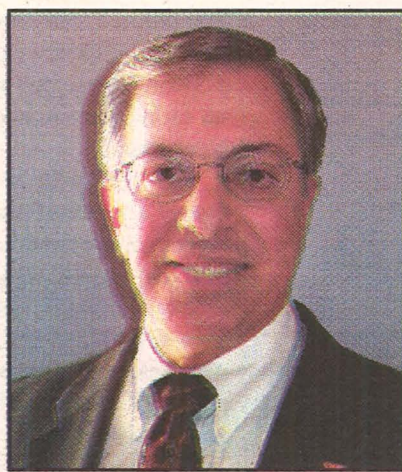
The Mayor also stated that he would support a memorial to the Armenian Genocide in Fresno.

State Senator Poochigian first saw the film in Los Angeles where he commented that it was a special feeling to have met the director and actors prior to viewing the film in



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

L to R: Fresno City Mayor Alan Autry, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Hygo Ohannessian, State Senator Chuck Poochigian at the press conference held in Border's bookstore, immediately following the premiere of "Ararat."



State Senator Chuck Poochigian

an extremely large theater.

"To be able to experience this film in such a large audience where hundreds of people were experiencing the emotions and sensations of the film at the same time was absolutely amazing," said Poochigian.

Congressman Poochigian said during the press conference that, "This is not a movie for Armenians but about Armenians."

Congressman-elect Devin Nunes shared that it was interesting that "Ararat" was not a documentary.

"This film was made as an everyday film for citizens to watch with an injection of reality of the

genocide."

Nunes stated that he would work with Congressman Radanovich to ensure that at some point the Turkish government recognizes that something took place concerning the devastation of the Armenians.

Many who viewed the film expressed the desire to see it again.

In Fresno, as I'm sure elsewhere, members of the audience watched the credits roll and simply sat in their seats in silent awe as the images of genocide lingered.

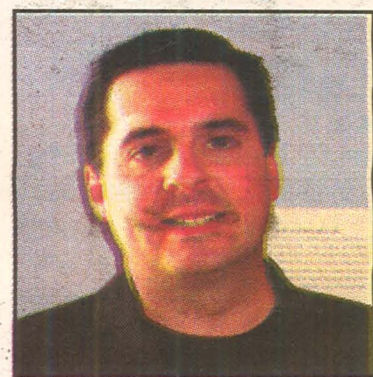


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

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